

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Missouri Bladderpod

Lesquerella filiformis

Common name • Missouri Bladderpod

Scientific name • *Lesquerella filiformis*

Federal status • Endangered

State status • Endangered

Ecology

Missouri bladderpod is a herbaceous annual plant that occurs on limestone glades and rocky roadsides in southwest Missouri. In Missouri it is found in Dade, Greene, Christian, and Lawrence counties. Missouri bladderpod can be locally abundant in rocky grazed pastures and along roadsides. Bladderpod seeds drop to the ground in late May and early June, lie dormant through the summer and germinate in fall. After germination, the plant spends the winter as a rosette (a cluster of leaves near the ground). Stems are produced in spring and bladderpod flowers from April to May.

Reasons for Decline

Missouri bladderpod depends on open glade habitat and is threatened by encroachment of woody vegetation and exotic cool season grasses. Much of the available habitat for Missouri bladderpod has been lost through urbanization and conversion of native landscapes to exotic pasture grasses. Missouri bladderpod benefits from proper glade management, including prescribed fire (in August), and will tolerate some grazing.

Specific Recommendations

Projects planned within the Missouri range of Missouri bladderpod should include a survey of the project area for the presence of limestone glades or limestone outcrops. The presence of numerous eastern red cedar trees are often linked to Missouri bladderpod habitat. Habitat should be surveyed for Missouri bladderpod presence between November 1 and June 1, with best results obtained in early May during flowering.

→ Limit construction to areas of deeper soil, away from limestone outcrops and glades.

→ Prevent heavy colonization of limestone glades by woody plants, especially eastern red cedar, by use of cutting and prescribed burning.

→ Maintain native glade vegetation by controlling aggressive exotic plants such as tall fescue, downy chess, Japanese chess, and musk thistle.

→ Avoid non-specific herbicide use in areas of Missouri bladderpod between October and July. Monocot-specific herbicides may be used as needed.

→ Avoid heavy grazing and grazing during flowering and fruiting periods (March-July).

Information Contacts

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Disclaimer

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